

by C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1914.
Price \$4.00.

A volume of about 400 pages which covers briefly and succinctly almost the entire field of sanitation. Written with the intention of supplying within the limits of a single moderate sized volume, a not too condensed exposition of the problems of the communicable and preventable diseases, and general duties of health officers, the authors have succeeded admirably.

Considering the importance of typhoid fever as a preventable disease, more attention might have been paid to a discussion of the methods of tracing infections.

Under diphtheria, no mention is made of the absolute necessity from a public health standpoint of requiring more than one negative throat swab before release from quarantine.

The chapter on laboratory methods and the collection of specimens is brief but to the point and can be read with profit by most physicians.

Perhaps in view of the general excellence of the book one should overlook minor causes for differences of opinion such as the importance attached to fomites in the spread of measles and the statement that flies and mosquitoes may act as carriers of small pox.

The work is of especial value to health officers of small towns and to those officers of the public health who must necessarily divide their time between sanitation and the practice of medicine.

WILFRED H. KELLOGG.

Genito-Urinary Diseases and Syphilis. By Edgar G. Ballenger, M. D., Adjunct Clinical Professor of Genito-Urinary Diseases, Atlanta Medical College; Editor Journal-Record of Medicine; Urologist to Westley Memorial Hospital; Genito-Urinary Surgeon to Davis-Fisher Sanatorium; Urologist to Hospital for Nervous Diseases, etc., Atlanta, Ga., assisted by Omar F. Elder, M. D. The Wassermann Reaction by Edgar Paullin, M. D. Second edition revised, 527 pages with 109 illustrations and 5 colored plates. Price \$5.00 net. E. W. Allen & Co., Atlanta, Ga.

In general this work covers the usual ground of text books on the subject. Of these a number have so recently been offered by publishers that this one seems at first sight to be rather superfluous. A new work should be justified by sufficient originality, or, at least, characterized by a personal point of view. While the volume is somewhat lacking in both these qualities yet the rapid development of diagnostic methods and therapy of genito-urinary diseases demands at short intervals a review appealing to students and those practitioners depending upon text books for a knowledge of the latest. Recognizing this the writers have incorporated, as stated in the preface, the following newer discoveries; vaccine therapy, the phthalein test for function of the kidneys, pyelography, the Wassermann reaction and luetin test, salvarsan and neosalvarsan, etc.

The insertion of extracts from the texts of noteworthy contributions are ingeniously and freely used throughout the book, thus giving important first hand information from original sources, a method to be commended. Original subject matter is to be found in the chapter on the treatment of urethritis by sealing in argyrol with collodion and further in a theory of the etiology of hypertrophy and nervous disorders of the prostate based upon the demonstrations of large numbers of a variety of attenuated organisms in the secretion, these organisms producing no pus but a chronic toxic condition. To avoid infection mixed vaccine treatment for gonorrhea is recommended.

On the whole the work makes a favorable impression without arousing any enthusiasm. The chapter on salvarsan deserves reading. It is both good and practical.

M. S.

Modern Medicine. Its Theory and Practice. In original contributions by American and Foreign Authors. Edited by Sir William Osler, Bart., M. D., F. R. S., Regius Professor of Medicine in Oxford University, England; Honorary Professor of Medicine in Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore; formerly Professor of Clinical Medicine in the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, and in McGill University, Montreal; and Thomas McCrae, M. D., Professor of Medicine in the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia; Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, London; formerly Associate Professor of Medicine in Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore. In five octavo volumes of about 1000 pages each, illustrated. Volume II. Diseases caused by Protozoa and Animal Parasites—Diseases Due to Physical, Chemical and Organic Agents—Diseases of Metabolism and of the Respiratory System. Just ready. Price per volume, cloth, \$5.00, net; half morocco, \$7.00, net. Lea & Febiger, Publishers, Philadelphia and New York, 1914.

Volume II shows a logical rearrangement of subjects and a number of new contributors since the last edition. Most of the chapters give evidence of critical revision, bringing their subjects abreast of the more recent advances. Many of the chapters stand out especially for their excellence. Among these may be mentioned: Osler and Churchman's Syphilis; Fletcher's Diabetes; Stiles' Animal Parasites.

A few points of special interest scattered throughout the volume seem worthy of notice. Amebic Dysentery, Strong: At least two species of amebae are not definitely distinguished, the pathogenic *Entameba Histolytica* and the non-pathogenic *Entameba Coli*. Undoubted pure cultures have not been obtained. The treatment of amebic dysentery by emetics has been found to be almost specific. Malaria, Craig: Pure cultures of the plasmodium have been grown for several generations on dextrose blood. Trypanosomiasis, Bruce: Essentially a disease of the lymphatics, the diagnosis is most readily made by inserting a hypodermic needle into a swollen lymph gland and withdrawing a drop of fluid. This will contain trypanosomes in larger numbers than are present in the blood. This method is applicable also for finding *treponemata* in secondary syphilis. Syphilis, Osler and Churchman: The clinical and pathological pictures are masterful. In diagnosis, stress is rightly laid upon the imperative duty and comparative ease of demonstrating the *treponema* in chancres. In treatment the article is not so strong, especially in the discussion of the value of salvarsan. Several conditions are said to contraindicate its use, namely: "Late tabes, general paresis, acute cases of cerebrospinal lues," etc. This statement may well be challenged. Of the Swift-Ellis intradural treatment brief mention is made, and the results are said to be merely "suggestive." In discussion prophylaxis the suggestion of making syphilis reportable by law is frowned upon as being impracticable and unwise. In view of the fact that such a law is actually being enforced successfully in New York and elsewhere, this opinion seems surprisingly behind the times. Alcohol, Lambert: Besides an excellent picture of the symptomatology, etc., the Townes-Lambert method of treatment is given in detail. Diabetes, Fletcher: A valuable part of this article is the clear and stimulating discussion of the interrelation of the functions of the ductless glands. Mechanics of Respiration: This is excellent throughout. Obesity, Anders: In discussing differential diagnosis it is surprising to find no mention of hypophyseal disease. Diseases of Naso-Pharynx, Packard: Here one is surprised under etiology to find no mention of the infective character of coryza and no discussion of its bacteriology. Diseases of the Bronchi, McPhedran: Excellent. Diseases of the Lungs, Hare: This is

disappointing. The treatment seems to be merely "traditional" and often appears to be at variance with the results of experimentation. Hare says: "The most valuable drugs in branchopneumonia are the stimulants, and of these alcohol holds first place—it should be pushed to its physiological limits. Even in young children large quantities may be given in twenty-four hours without causing toxic effects." Diseases of the Pleura, Lord: Excellent. Pneumothorax, Lord: The conclusions regarding artificial pneumothorax in treatment of tuberculosis seem ultra-conservative, even to an unreasonable extent, in view of the often remarkable results in properly selected cases.

On the whole the articles in this volume are of extremely high order and the outlook for this series is of the best. H. S. F.

DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACY AND CHEMISTRY.

Edited by FRED I. LACKENBACH.

(This Department will be pleased to supply information concerning products passed or rejected by the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the A. M. A., or submit queries to the Council when information is not available.)

Since publication of New and Nonofficial Remedies, 1914, and in addition to those previously reported, the following articles have been accepted by the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association for inclusion with "New and Nonofficial Remedies":

TRYPsin, Fairchild.—A powder consisting of the proteolytic enzyme of the pancreas, separated to a considerable extent from the other enzymes and constituents of the gland and of a definite strength. Trypsin digests proteins and nucleoproteins in slightly alkaline media. Fairchild Bros. and Foster, New York (Jour. A. M. A., March 7, 1914, p. 776).

CEROLIN.—Cerolin consists of the fats, cholesterolins, lecithin and ethereal oil extracted from yeast by alcohol. Experiments have indicated that the laxative action of yeast depends on the fats and lipid constituents and that in skin affections these substances have the action of yeast itself. Hence cerolin, marketed in the form of cerolin pills, 1½ grains, is said to be useful in furunculosis, acne and in other skin affections. It is also said to be useful in habitual constipation, leukorrhea, erosions of the vagina and cervix and in similar diseases. Merck and Co., New York (Jour. A. M. A., March 21, 1914, p. 931).

REFINED AND CONCENTRATED TETANUS ANTITOXIN, SQUIBB.—For description see New and Nonofficial Remedies, 1914. Marketed in the form of syringes containing respectively an immunizing dose and a curative dose. E. R. Squibb and Sons, New York (Jour. A. M. A., March 21, 1914, p. 931).

TYPHOID VACCINE (Immunizing).—For description of typhoid vaccine see N. N. R., 1914, p. 259. It is prepared according to the method of the U. S. Army Laboratory. Marketed in ampule and syringe packages, each containing 500 million, 1000 million and 1000 million killed typhoid bacilli. H. M. Alexander and Co., Marietta, Pa. (Jour. A. M. A., March 28, 1914, p. 1014).

B. B. CULTURE.—A pure culture of *Bacillus Bulgaricus* marketed in bottles containing 90 Cc. Intended for use in intestinal indigestion and for the enterocolitis of infants. B. B. Culture Laboratories, Yonkers, N. Y. (Jour. A. M. A., March 28, 1914, p. 1014).

SCARLATINA STREPTO-SEROBACTERIN, MULFORD (Immunizing).—A sensitized scarlatina streptococcic vaccine, sold in packages containing

three doses of killed sensitized streptococci. (The Council has at present no means for determining the identity and purity of serobacterins and these must therefore be used on the guarantee of the manufacturer, alone). (Jour. A. M. A., April 11, 1914, p. 1168).

PHENOLPHTHALEIN-AGAR.—Phenolphthalein-agar is agar-agar impregnated with phenolphthalein, 100 Gm. containing 3 Gm. of phenolphthalein. It has the properties of agar-agar augmented by those of phenolphthalein. The Reinschild Chemical Co., New York (Jour. A. M. A., April 11, 1914, p. 1168).

CAUSTICKS (Silver Nitrate 75 per cent.).—Wooden sticks 1½ inches long, tipped with a mixture of silver nitrate 75 per cent. and potassium nitrate 25 per cent. Each stick is to be used but once. Antiseptic Supply Co., New York.

CAUSTICK APPLICATORS (Silver Nitrate 75 per cent.).—Wooden sticks 6½ inches long, tipped with a mixture of silver nitrate 75 per cent. and potassium nitrate 25 per cent. Each stick is to be used but once. Antiseptic Supply Co., New York.

CUPRICSTICKS (Copper Sulphate 60 per cent.).—Wooden sticks 1½ inches long, tipped with a mixture of copper sulphate 60 per cent., alum 25 per cent. and potassium nitrate 15 per cent. Each stick is to be used but once. Antiseptic Supply Co., New York.

STYPSTICKS (Alum 75 per cent.).—Wooden sticks 1½ inches long, tipped with a mixture of alum 75 per cent. and potassium nitrate 25 per cent. Each stick is to be used but once. Antiseptic Supply Co., New York. Jour. A. M. A., April 25, 1914, p. 1328).

MERCURIC CHLORID AND THE PUBLIC.—In commenting on the use of mercuric chlorid tablets by the public and on the attempts to check this by special legislation, M. I. Wilbert points out that the exploitation of this drug under non-descriptive titles such as "antiseptic tablets" is partially responsible for their indiscriminate use. The fact that they are given a distinctive shape or color does not serve to protect the purchaser if he is uninstructed as to their contents; instead it tends to elaborate on the misuse of the tablets. Physicians are to some extent responsible for the public use of tablets of corrosive mercuric chlorid, for in the past these tablets have been prescribed or given to patients for antiseptic purposes without sufficient precaution as to their poisonous character (Jour. A. M. A., March 28, 1914, p. 1042).

THEOBROMIN SODIUM SALICYLATE versus "DIURETIN".—Theobromin sodium salicylate, now described in New and Nonofficial Remedies and sold by most pharmaceutical firms, was first introduced under the therapeutically suggestive name "Diuretin." While under its proper title it can be bought for 35 to 45 cents an ounce, the proprietary "Diuretin" costs \$1.75 an ounce. An examination in the A. M. A. Chemical Laboratory has demonstrated that the quality of the product as sold under its chemical name is equal to that sold as "Diuretin." In view of these findings physicians should learn to prescribe the drug by its chemical name (Jour. A. M. A., April 4, 1914, p. 1108).

THE SERUM TREATMENT OF TETANUS.—The great value of antitetanus serum as a preventive is unquestioned. As a specific cure the serum has fallen short of expectation; nevertheless, it has decreased the mortality from tetanus. Tetanus antitoxin acts only on the toxin not yet combined with the nerve cells. This emphasizes the early and liberal use of antitoxic serum largely by intraspinal introduction in order to neutralize the toxin that still is free and on its way to the nerve cells, the necessity of thorough cleansing